

STATINTL

FULBRIGHT PLEADS ANEW ON AIR RAIDS

Urges Suspension by U.S.
to Induce Hanoi to Talk

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 — Senator J. W. Fulbright renewed today a call for a temporary suspension of bombing raids against North Vietnam to create a better atmosphere for negotiations to end the Vietnamese war.

The Arkansas Democrat, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, first suggested such a step last March. The United States subsequently suspended raids for four days.

The four-day suspension, Senator Fulbright said today, "was not a very long time to allow any kind of negotiations to get under way."

His suggestion that bombings again be suspended "for a more reasonable time" was made in an interview on "Meet the Press," a radio and television program of the National Broadcasting Company.

Senator Fulbright did not indicate how long he felt such a suspension should last. However, there have been suggestions that he would favor suspending the raids for several weeks.

Noting that the leaders of the Soviet Union and some other countries have said that the outlook for negotiations was negative so long as the bombing continued, Senator Fulbright said: "I have felt that we should take them up on this and at least stop it for a reasonable time."

Bombing Could Be Resumed

If there was no response, he continued, "then you could always resume it and there would be no commitment never to resume it."

Critical of what he views as an increasing influence of the Department of Defense and the

Central Intelligence Agency on Administration thinking, Senator Fulbright warned against allowing these two agencies to take a dominant role in shaping foreign policy.

"The military, our tradition is, should be subject to civilian policy-makers, and the C.I.A. is supposed to be an intelligence agency only and not an operating agency in the execution of foreign policy," he said.

The Senator said that he believed an imbalance had been developing between the State Department and the Defense Department on the matter of setting foreign policy, particularly in Vietnam.

Senator Fulbright attributed the Pentagon's growing influence to the "great persuasive powers" of Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and his department's control of more than 50 per cent of the nation's budget.

Senator Fulbright said that President Johnson was in full control of foreign policy and was "not by any means under the dominance of anybody."

But he added, the Defense Department, in an advisory capacity, "is a very influential influence — a very strong influence — at the present time."

The department's influence stems in large part, he said, from the "enormous contracts" with the business community throughout the nation.

"It is reaching even into my state, which is one of the most remote ones, and one of the smallest beneficiaries," the Senator added.

Defending his role as a critic, Mr. Fulbright said that, as a member of Congress, "I am not a part of the Administration." Declaring that he felt it proper for any member of Congress to express his views whether or not they tallied with those of the Administration, the Senator said:

"I don't understand why this consensus has reached such a state that people feel Senators, or particularly this Senator, should not speak about any matter in which he dissents from the current views of the Administration."